

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q71952

Kenichiro NAKAJIMA

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: February 14, 2005

Examiner: Unknown

For: FILLED SKUTTERUDITE-BASED ALLOY, PRODUCTION METHOD THEREOF AND
THERMOELECTRIC CONVERSION DEVICE FABRICATED USING THE ALLOY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the International Search Report from the corresponding International Application, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/10058
Attorney Docket No.: Q71952

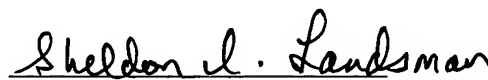
continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of an English-language International Search Report for the corresponding PCT/JP03/10058 dated October 16, 2003, including at least that portion of the International Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the International Search Authority. In addition, JP 2002 026400A is discussed at page 4 of the present specification.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 A & B (06-03)

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Complete if Known

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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Application Number

National Stage Entry of
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First Named Inventor

Kenichiro NAKAJIMA

Art Unit

Unknown

Examiner Name

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Attorney Docket Number

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 6 069 312	A	05-30-2000	Fleurial et al
		US 5 808 233	A	09-15-1998	Finkel et al
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	2002-026400	A	01-25-2002		
		JP	2001-102642	A	04-13-2001		
		JP	2000-095523	A	04-04-2000		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 2002, no. 05, May 3, 2002, JP 2002 026400 A (Toshiba Corp), January 25, 2002	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 2000, no. 21, August 3, 2001, JP 2001 102642 (Yamaguchi Industrial Promotion Foundation), April 13, 2001	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 2000, no. 07, September 29, 2000, JP 2000 095523 A (Ricoh Co. Ltd.) April 4, 2000	

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.